



## **Notice for Underground Storage Tank Owners and Operators Upcoming Requirements for Federally Mandated Owner/Operator Certification by August 8, 2012**

This notice is regarding the upcoming mandate requiring each underground storage tank facility<sup>1</sup> to have Class A, Class B, and Class C operators. Operator candidates will need to pass a written test in order to be certified as a Class A or Class B operator; a test is not required for the Class C operator. The test checks for the necessary knowledge regarding the operations of underground storage tank systems. The state of Michigan is in the process of promulgating amendments to the underground storage tank rules (rules) to add the certification requirements. By the time the rules go into effect, there will remain only a short time period for certification by the August 8, 2012, deadline. Michigan has no control over this deadline; it is a federal mandate.<sup>2</sup>

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is encouraging all underground storage tank owners/operators to get training, if needed, and be prepared to take the certification test. The International Code Council (ICC) will be in charge of the Michigan-specific testing and certification. The Michigan-specific tests will be made available as soon as the rules are enacted. At that time, a listing of test times, registration requirements, and designated testing sites will be identified on the ICC website [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org). Note that the ICC website lists other operator examinations; you should select the Michigan-specific examination.

### **What are the Classes of operators?**

- Class A: This is the person who has primary responsibility to operate and maintain the underground storage tank system. For a typical gas station, it is the owner of the station or his designee. For large corporations, this is the manager or designee responsible for tank operations. The class A operator can also be designated as a Class B operator as long as he/she has passed the Class B operator exam.
- Class B: This designation is for the individual or individuals who implement day-to-day aspects of operating, maintaining, and record keeping for underground storage tank systems at one or more facilities. For a typical gas station, it is the owner or the person/company contracted by the owner to maintain the tanks. For large corporations, it is the employee, or person/company contracted by the corporation to maintain the tanks. A broad knowledge base is required for a Class A operator, but the Class B operator must have in-depth knowledge of tank system operation and maintenance.
- Class C: This is an individual who is responsible for responding to alarms or other indications of emergencies caused by spills, releases, or overfills associated with an underground storage tank system. For a typical gas station, this is the cashier. Though a test is not required, this person

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<sup>1</sup> Regulated under [Part 211, Underground Storage Tank Regulations](#), of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, [1994 PA 451, as amended](#).

<sup>2</sup> The requirements are in Section 1524 of the [Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005](#).

must be trained in responding to releases, alarms, and emergency conditions. Training can be performed by the Class A operators, Class B operators, or third-party vendors.

### **Where can I get the training?**

The options are to obtain training from qualified individuals in the corporation or take the training provided by outside vendors. Information on vendors that are providing the training in Michigan may be obtained by contacting your association.

### **What will the examination cover?**

ICC has an [Examination Information Bulletin](#) that gives details of the examination process and their [website](#) has [sample questions](#). The examination is open book and the following reference materials are allowed to be used during the examination:

1. [Michigan Underground Storage Tank Rules \[MUSTR\]](#)
2. [Operating and Maintaining Underground Storage Tank Systems \(EPA 510-B-05-002\)](#)
3. [Straight Talk on Tanks, 2005 \(EPA 510-B-05-001\)](#)
4. [Musts for USTs, July 1995 \(EPA 510-K-95-002\)](#)
5. [Dollars and Sense, Financial Responsibility Requirements for USTs \(EPA 510-K-95-004\)](#)
6. [EPA 40 CFR Part 280, 280.10—280.74 Technical Standards and Corrective Action](#)

**For questions please contact your association or the MDEQ.**

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